12th November 1965]

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (a) & (b) A statement [a] is placed on the table of the House.

Loss of Foodgrains

*208 Q.—SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(a) the total loss of foodgrains under Government control on account of various factors like insects, rats, moistures, etc., in the State since June 1964;

(b) the value thereof; and

(c) the precaution taken to prevent such losses ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (a) 212 bags of rice (till April 1965).

(b) About Rs. 12,720 (till April 1965).

(c) This occurred mostly during the crises of October—December 1964 before technical staff could be posted. Now that adequate staff has been posted to attend to periodical spraying and fumigation, no such damage is likely to occur in future.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Out of the three factors mentioned in the question, which is the factor that has caused the highest damage, Sir ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The damage was not much by rats or insects, but it was due to the wet condition of rice particularly that prepared by mills in Tiruchirappalli.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : It was stated that rice was damaged due to moisture. May I know, Sir, whether that rice was thrown out or powdered and used as 'atta'?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I do not think that we should make the damaged rice into 'atta'. If the rice is spoiled, we are not giving it for human consumption at all in any form.

DR. H. V. HANDE : May I know, Sir, whether any rice bags have been spoiled during transit in train due to rain ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : During this particular critical period of October-November last year, the rice prepared by the mills was brought from distant places to Madras. The rice brought was in some sort of wet condition. Due to pressure, some of the bags were damaged. The damage was not due to any sort of exposure, insects or rats, Sir. It was only due to the wet condition of the rice during transit.

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMY MUDALIAR : What happens is this. These Procurement Officers are different from the Officers entrusted with a work of sale. In cases of heavy loss, will it

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a Printed as Appendix I on pages 333–334.

be possible for the Government to locate the fault or negligence of Officers who were responsible for the loss ?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : The figures which I have given relate to a short period during the last year. I have already stated in my main answer that special staff have been appointed and they will be looking after the storage conditions.

Madhavaram Milk Colony

* 209 Q.—SRI M. SUBBIAH CHETTIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the supply of milk by Madhavaram Project was considerably reduced during the months of June and July 1965 and even that reduced supply is not assured to the consumers; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The reasons are as follows :—

(i) The period from June to August generally represents the lean period in the availability of milk on account of drought conditions, fall in lactation of milch animals, etc.

(ii) This year the shortfall was accentuated by the following additional factors :—

(*a*) Fall in the production from the Madhavaram Milk Colony and in the supply from areas around Madras on account of the loss of animals due to rinderpest attack;

(*b*) Complete failure of the supply from the Nilgiris District and reduction in the supply from Coimbatore and Salem Districts mainly due to adverse seasonal conditions.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Were there any complaints that the supply was not properly made, Sir?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : Whatever supply was available, it was distributed, all right.

DR. H. V. HANDE : The customers find it difficult to exchange monthly coupons. There are 20 kiosks around the Nandanam Colony. The people have to go there at 8 O'clock and wait there till 12 noon, and they return disappointed. Will the Government consider having continuous hours of working for exchanging monthly coupons, Sir?

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : I do not think there is any supply after 8 a.m. Normally, in the morning the supply is over before 8 a.m.

DR. H. V. HANDE : Sir, I am asking about the exchange of monthly coupons. Every month, after the close of the month, the coupons have to be surrendered and new coupons have to be obtained.